

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05159 310908Z

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UNCLAS BERLIN 5159

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, CPRS

SUBJECT: GDR ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR CLAIMS

1. IN THE WAKE OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES WITHIN THE GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 31, 1974, THE STATE BUREAU FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF PROPERTY OF THE GDR (STAATLICHES AMT FUER DEN RECHTSSCHUTZ DES VERMOEGENS DER DDR) (SARV) HAS EMERGED AS THE PRINCIPAL AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN CLAIMS AGAINST THE GDR AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLAY AN INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN FUTURE CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS. IN THE PAST, FOREIGN CLAIMS AGAINST THE GDR HAVE BEEN HANDLED BY THE GDR MINISTRY OF FINANCE BUT NOW BECOME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THROUGH THE SARV WHICH IS CHARGED WITH PREPARING AND CARRYING OUT ALL DECISIONS PERTAINING TO THE REGULATION OF CLAIMS BETWEEN THE GDR AND ALL FOREIGN STATES, INCLUDING WEST BERLIN. IT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL OF FOREIGN PROPERTY IN THE GDR AND COOPERATES WITH THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS BY CITIZENS OF THE GDR TO PROPERTY IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05159 310908Z

2. ORGANIZATIONS SIMILAR TO THE SARV HAVE LONG

EXISTED IN THE GDR, BEGINNING WITH THE BUREAU FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE'S PROPERTY (AMT ZUM SCHUTZE DES VOLKSEIGENTUMS) ESTABLISHED IN 1949 UNDER THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND TRANSFERRED EVENTUALLY TO THE MINISTRY FOR STATE SECURITY. THIS AGENCY CONCERNED ITSELF EXCLUSIVELY WITH DOMESTIC PROPERTY QUESTIONS WHILE THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HANDLED FOREIGN PROPERTY CLAIMS AGAINST THE GDR AND GDR CLAIMS TO PROPERTY IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IN THE EARLY 1960'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR DOMESTIC PROPERTY MATTERS WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL AGENCY FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE'S PROPERTY (ZENTRALSTELLE ZUM SCHUTZ DES VOLKSEIGENTUMS) WHICH IN 1967 BECAME THE STATE BUREAU FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF PROPERTY OF THE GDR.

3. THE SARV IS CURRENTLY HEADED BY PROF. DR. HERMANN KLEYER AND HIS DEPUTY, DR. HANS GESCHWANDTER, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE SED. KLEYER, A FORMER PROFESSOR OF JURISPRUDENCE BORN IN GELSENKIRCHEN IN 1911, HAS BEEN HEAD OF THE SARV (AND ITS PREDECESSOR, THE CENTRAL AGENCY FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE'S PROPERTY), SINCE THE EARLY 1960'S.COOPER

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